

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

1900 Williams Street - P.O. Box 4789  
Helena, MT 59604-4789  
Telephone: (406) 841-3911      Fax: (406) 841-3965

Situation Report for August 21, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 20, 2003 (2400)**

- A. Large Fires      *Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*  
   *National Preparedness Level = 5*

**93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:**

1. Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) –21,350 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.
2. Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) –6,585 acres, 45% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.
3. Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) –17,000 acres, 33% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.
4. Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,000 acres, 70% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.

**Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:**

5. Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) –30,369 acres, 5% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
6. Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 10,115 acres, 15% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.
7. Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) –2,525 acres, 5% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston.
8. Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) –1,100 acres, 3% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
9. Burnt Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks)- 834 acres, 31% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.
10. Sheep Complex – Type 2 Incident Management (Hendricks) - 883 acres, 50% contained, 28 miles N of Townsend.

**Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:**

11. Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 10,073 acres, 25% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.
12. Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 44,257 acres, 50% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.
13. Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 41,887 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka.
14. Trapper Creek Complex – 24,862 acres, 65% contained, This complex comprised of 4 fires is located 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.
15. Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath)-22,744 acres, 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

**93 East Area Command** (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

16. Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 19,112 acres, 15% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.
17. Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 6,851 acres, 10% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.
18. Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 3,650 acres, 75% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula.
19. Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 15,000 acres, 5% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
20. Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt),-1,300 acres, 65% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula.

**Eastern Montana Zone MAC**

21. Hobbie – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,320 acres, 90% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff.
22. Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 9,180 acres, 55% contained, 10 miles E of Lame Deer.
23. Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) - 16,703 acres, 77% contained, located 24 miles W of Broadus.
24. Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 29,940 acres, 75% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin.
25. Beta Lake/Doris – 350 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles S of Hungry Horse.
26. Belton/Center/Harrison – 740 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.
27. Smith Creek – 200 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles S of Forsyth.

B. Initial Attack *Heavy attack – 111 new fires, 48,333 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

**STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT**  
**930 AM MDT THU AUG 21 2003**

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

**TODAY...MOSTLY SUNNY. AREAS OF SMOKE. HIGHS 86 TO 96.**

**.TONIGHT...PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 46 TO 56.**

**.FRIDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS 82 TO 92.**

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

**.TODAY...MOSTLY SUNNY AND SMOKY. HIGHS IN THE 80S.**

*.TONIGHT...MOSTLY CLEAR AND SMOKY. LOWS IN THE UPPER 40S TO MID 50S.  
.FRIDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON  
AND EVENING. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 80S TO LOWER 90S.*

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

*.TODAY...SUNNY IN THE MORNING THEN BECOMING PARTLY CLOUDY. ISOLATED SHOWERS AND  
THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON. HIGHS IN THE MID 70S TO UPPER 80S.*

*.TONIGHT...PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS IN  
THE MID 40S TO LOWER 50S.*

*.FRIDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE  
UPPER 70S TO UPPER 80S.*

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

*.TODAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS SOUTHWEST. HIGHS IN THE 80S TO  
LOWER 90S.*

*.TONIGHT...MOSTLY CLEAR NORTH. PARTLY CLOUDY SOUTH. A CHANCE OF  
THUNDERSTORMS SOUTHWEST. LOWS IN THE 50S.*

*.FRIDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE 80S  
TO LOWER 90S.*

**III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
<b>Lewis and Clark County</b>	<b>Emergency Declaration</b>	<b>8/15/03</b>
<b>Judith Basin County</b>	<b>Emergency Declaration</b>	<b>8/19/03</b>
<b>Missoula County</b>	<b>Emergency Declaration</b>	<b>8/10/03</b>

**IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

**State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Army National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	
	3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
	4 1 ¼ TRAILER	
	8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
	5 M1009 CONTACT TRUCK	
	2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
<b><i>3 Aircraft Modules Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>73 HVY Equipment Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>261 Soldiers Assigned</i></b>

Current Air National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
	1 7-ton truck	
	1 SUV	
	1 25' Flatbed trailer	
	13 Pickups	
	2 Vans	
	1 1-ton Flatbed truck	
	<b><i>19 Equipment Units Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>54 Airmen Assigned</i></b>

**Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
  - Northwest Area Command
  - 93 West & 93 East Area Command
  - Central Command
  - Sweetgrass County

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

**V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- *Lincoln Complex*
- *Flathead Zone*

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)